HIS MAIESTIES MOST GRACIOVS DECLARATION,

Left by Him on His Table at *Hampton*-Court, *Novemb.* 11. 1647:

And directed to be communicated to the Speaker of the House of Lords *pro tempore*, and to be communicated unto the Lords and Commons in the Parliament of England at Westminster, and the Commissioners of the Parliament of Scotland, & to all my other Subjects of what degree, Condition or Calling whatsoever.

C R

LONDON, Printed for *Richard Royston*, 1647.

HIS MAIESTIES

Moſt Gracious

DECLARATION,

Left by Him on His Table at Hampton-Court, NOVEMB. 11, 1647.

C. R.

LIberty being that which in all times hath been, but eſpecially now is the common Theame and Deſire of all men; common Reaſon ſhewes that Kings, leſſe then any, ſhould endure Captivity: and yet I call God and the World to Witneſſe, with what Patience I have endured a tedious Reſtraint: wh

long as I had any hopes, that this ſort of my ſuffering, might conduce to the peace of my Kingdomes, or the hindering of more effuſion of blood, I did willingly undergoe: but now finding by too certaine proofes, that this my continued Patience, would not onely turne to my Perſonall Ruine, but likewiſe bee of much more prejudice, then furtherance, to the Publike good; I thought I was bound, as well by Naturall as Politicall Obligations to ſeek my ſafety, by retiring my ſelfe, for ſome time, from the publike view both of my Friends and Enemies: And I appeale to all indifferent Men, to judge, if I have not juſt cauſe, to free my ſelfe from the hands of thoſe, who change their Principles with their Condition, and who are not aſhamed openly

to

to intend, the destruction of the Nobility, by taking away their Negative voice; and with whom the Levellers Doctrine, is rather countenanced then punished; and as for their intentions to my Person; their changing, and putting more strict Guards upon Me, with the discharging most of all those Servants of mine, who formerly they willingly admitted to wait upon me, does sufficiently declare: Nor would I have this my retirement mis-interpreted; for, I shall earnestly and unceſſantly endeavour the setling of a safe and well-grounded Peace, wherever I am, or shall bee; and that (as much as may bee) without the effusion of more Christian Bloud; for which, how many times have I desired, prest to bee heard? and

yet, no Eare given to me: and can any Reasonable Man think, that (according to the ordinary course of affaires) there can be a setled Peace without it? Or, that God will blesse those, who refuse to heare their owne King: Surely no: Nay, I must further adde, that (besides what concernes My Selfe) unlesse all other chiefe interests, have not onely a hearing, but likewise, just satisfaction given unto them (to wit, The Presbyterians, Independants, Army, those who have adhered to Me, and even the Scots) I say there cannot (I speake not of Miracles, it being in My Opinion, a Sinfull presumption, in such cases, to expect or trust to them) be a safe or lasting Peace: Now, as I cannot deny, but My Personall Securitie, is the urgent Cause of this My Retirement;

so

ſo I take God to Witneſſe, that the Publike Peace is no leſſe before My Eyes: And I can finde no better way to expreſſe this My profeſſion (I know not what a Wiſer man may doe) then by deſiring and urging, that all chiefe intereſts may be heard, to the End, each may have juſt ſatisfaction: As for example, the Army, (for the reſt, though neceſſary, yet, I ſuppoſe are not difficult to content) ought (in my judgment) to enjoy the Libertie of their Conſciences, have an Act of Oblivion or Indempnity, (which ſhould extend to all the reſt of My Subjects) and that all their arreares ſhould bee ſpeedily and duely Payed: Which I will undertake to doe, ſo I maybe heard, & that I be not hindered from uſing ſuch lawfull and honeſt meanes, as I ſhall chuſe: To

conclude, let Mee be heard with freedome, honour, and safetie; and I shall instantly breake through this Cloud of Retirement, and show My Selfe Really to be *Pater Patriæ*.

Hampton Court, 11. Novemb. 1647.

For the Speaker of the Lords *pro tempore*, to be communicated unto the Lords and Commons in the Parliament of *England* at *Westminster*, and the Commissioners of the Parliament of *Scotland*, and to all my other Subjects of what degree, condition, or calling whatsoever.

FINIS.